



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission releases 2004 annual report

The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission has released its 2004 Annual Report that details the progress made by Delaware's farmers, golf courses, lawn care companies and other nutrient handlers who have adopted the requirements outlined in the Nutrient Management Law that was passed by lawmakers in 1999. The report details progress made as farmers and others faced a 2004 deadline for nutrient management certification resulting in 2,136 certifications.

The law also requires 20% increments for implementing mandatory Nutrient Management standards starting in 2003. Progress through 2004 is included in the report. To date, 84% of Delaware cropland is enrolled or mandated into program requirements, 24% ahead of the deadline. The remaining 20% increment mandates will continue to be phased in every January until the program reaches the full implementation deadline of 2007.

According to Bill Vanderwende, Chairman of the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission, "The 2004 Annual Report to Governor Minner and the 143rd General Assembly outlines a successful phase in of the law and other regulations. We are ahead of schedule and pleased with the cooperation of Delaware's farmers."

2004 highlights include the following:

- Relocation of 61,782 tons of excess poultry litter
- Nutrient Management planning for 121,113 acres
- 15 on farm audit results
- A detailed update on concentrated animal feeding operations
- Nutrient best management practices such as poultry litter storage
- Environmental stewardship recipients
- Urban nutrient management actions
- Resolution of 44 nutrient management related complaints.

Secretary of Agriculture, Michael T. Scuse, says "Delaware farmers are making great strides in managing nutrients in ways to protect water quality. I am proud of Delaware farmers and the success of the DNMC."

The report can be obtained by contacting the Delaware Department of Agriculture, Nutrient Management Program at (302) 698-4500 or (800) 282-8685 (DE only) or visit our website at: <http://www.state.de.us/deptagri/nutrients/index.shtml>.

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